New York Tribune.

First to Last the Truth: News, Editorials, Advertisements.

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The President and the Literacy Test.

The House immigration bill, with the literacy test imbedded in it, passed the Senate last night. It now goes to conference committee, and will undoubtedly be submitted to the President for his approval, although he has let it be known that he is firmly opposed to the literacy test. Thus for the first time since March 4, 1913, the Democratic majority in Congress has definitely challenged the President's leadership.

It was the manifest reluctance of Democratic Representatives and Senators to offer that challenge which kept the immigration bill sidetracked in the Senate for many months. Before the last election it could not have been brought to a vote. The altered situation in the Democratic party since November last is more than hinted at in the action of the Senate yesterday in bidding defiance to Mr. Wilson by a vote of 50 to 7.

We hope, nevertheless, that Mr. Wilson will stand fast. Mr. Taft vetoed this same bill two years ago, and it failed because there was no two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives to pass it over his veto. Mr. Wilson should show equal courage in battling for his convictions. Enlightened sentiment will be with him in opposing the pending bill.

The literacy test for immigrants is simply a lazy man's test. It sets up no fair or just standard of eligibility. It is not based on character, bodily health, capacity for labor, sobriety or any other of the qualifications which are of real importance in those who do the sort of work which falls to the average alien immigrant. A literacy examination does not exclude the knave, the idler or the parasite. There can be no pretence that literate immigrants will work harder, lead more respectable lives and be more useful in the development of the industries which are fed by immigration than will those who never learned to read and write. It is proper to set up such a test for voting. But it is extravagant to use it in trying to sift out at Ellis Island those who are desirable as transient workers or as settlers from those who are undesirable.

The literacy qualification never had anything to recommend it but its easiness of application. Like all other absolutely superficial things, it appeals through its off-handedness and lack of thoroughness. In the days when we were having an annual immigration of 1,000,000 to 1,200,000 some easy, catchy device like that might have seemed plausible. Some kind of a fish net was wanted. But now, when the flood of immigration has been greatly reduced, actually as well as relatively, we need no such haphazard test. If we adopt one it should go beneath the surface and try to make discriminations based on some demonstration of genuine eligibility or ineligibility.

How little the formal test of literacy is worth was shown when the Senate enthusiastically amended the House bill so as to open our doors to the exiled inhabitants of Belgium. If those good people want to come here and settle we are naturally glad to welcome them, waiving all questions of literacy and "assisted immigration." In a pinch like this we discard our artificial restrictions without a whimper. That shows how merely a conventional value they have.

We should be glad to see Congress save the situation for the Belgians by passing a special joint resolution facilitating their migration here. But the immigration bill itself deserves a veto, and, once vetoed, it will have hard work getting a two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives.

Great Britain's New Armies.

The creation of six new British armies shows that the time is rapidly approaching when Great Britain's strength will be fully felt in the western war theatre. Three corps are to be assigned to each command, and if modern methods of organization are followed each will consist of about 120,000 men. There are probably enough recruits in Great Britain of four or five months' training to supply the 720,000 men needed for the six armies.

Ideas about the length of training required to turn out soldiers have been considerably modified since the war began. Germany and France put first line troops into the field in August, and the first line force has now been worn down to a shadow. Second line and third line reserves have been brought up, and the average in training and physical quality is now far below what it was in August. Great Britain has supplied in France about 250,000 regulars and a small number of territorials. The troops which she is now organizing are of the first line class in physical qualifications, although short on experience. Yet there is no reason why they should not soon fight as well as French and German reserves of the classes between thirty and forty-five years of age, called back to service after long intervals in civil pursuits.

The Allies were greatly handicapped by Great Britain's late start in developing armies. But there will be a good deal of compensation in the end. Great Britain can put 720,000 high class troops into the field before the winter is over, and this reinforcement will give the Allies a big preponderance in the western field. With its aid they can get a real offensive under way, and by the middle of summer another British contingent of 720,000 will probably be ready. The longer the war lasts the greater will be the value of normal first and second line troops, of which Great Britain and the colonies can easily furnish 1,000,000, in addition to the six armies just created. The first year of the war was Germany's year. The second will be France's and Great Britain's. The third, if there is a third, will probably be Russia's, whose untouched supplies of men still exceed those of any other belligerent.

Probing the Albany Departments.

Governor Whitman's project for a general investigation of state departments with a view to administrative reform is excellent—if it can be confined to that. If it becomes more than that—the investigation "for reprisals or to fix responsibility for official wrongdoing on individuals" which he said it would not be—it is likely to be spread out so that results could hardly be achieved within his term of office. Special investigations in cases where criminal responsibility was indicated might with fitness be an offshoot from the proposed general probe. That, however, should be strictly limited to the one object of ascertaining the nature of the flaws in department workings and their proper remedy.

For this inquiry there already exists a splendid basis, if the Governor can obtain it, in the findings of experts of the Bureau of Municipal Research, who have raked the departments in a survey of their methods of handling affairs. It would pay Governor Whitman's investigators also to read the report of the Sulzer Committee of Inquiry and then to follow up much which that body didn't go into thoroughly. There have been plenty of suggestions for correcting department evils—enough to keep the Governor's probers in material for study for many a night. The trouble has been that the recommendations weren't followed. If Governor Whitman can get from his inquiry a definite and fairly simple scheme of betterment and then can put that into effect, he will deserve the thanks of the taxpayers.

Another Official Denunciation of the B. R. T.

The report on transit conditions on the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company's lines submitted to the Public Service Commission by Joseph Johnson, chief of the Transit Bureau, is complete condemnation of the service. Doubtless more could be said, but little more is necessary. The twelve specific indictments cover the case well enough. Not even a frozen traveller who has stood all the way to far Canarsie would be likely to say more, though his language might not be so parliamentary.

It remains to be seen what will result from this official arraignment. It is no news that transit conditions on these lines are unsatisfactory—the public has proclaimed that often enough. Yet the Public Service Commission has never been able to bring about sufficient betterments. Even this report from its investigator comes after the Kings County Grand Jury has begun an investigation, not only of transit conditions, but of the commission's attitude toward them, on the recommendation of a judge who flatly declared his belief that there was criminal responsibility for existing conditions. The travelling public is gratified to find that its knowledge is at last conceded by officialdom to be correct. What it wants—and wants badly—is some action on this state of affairs which will bring improvement in the lifetime of the present generation.

Keep the Apple Hanging High.

Dr. Worcester used a simile in his testimony before the Senate Philippines Committee which sums up the true philosophy of our relationship to the Filipinos. "I believe," he said, "that the practical way to develop the Philippine people is to let the apple hang high and make them climb for it, instead of telling them to hold their hats and shake the tree."

Whatever we are going to give the Filipinos—education, economic opportunity, political training, autonomy or even independence—we should try to make them work for it themselves with all the energy of which they are capable. Self-help is the best lesson in life—for peoples as well as for individuals. A great inheritance thrust carelessly on an idler will be wasted; a great opportunity put in the hands of an incompetent will be misused.

There is no royal road to efficiency, and it is only cowardly sentimentalism to picture the Filipinos in their present condition as fit for self-government—let alone being fit to govern the non-Christian races in the Philippines. They will grow up to autonomy very gradually—after two generations possibly, as ex-President Taft suggested yesterday. The apple is not ripe now. The present administration is doing the Filipinos a grave disservice in recklessly shaking the tree.

Uncurbed Police as Dangerous as Criminals.

The heads of the four big policemen's organizations officially deny that Mr. William B. Ellison was speaking for them when he practically threatened Commissioner Woods's administration with disaster unless a free hand were given to the men to club and arrest and enter houses promiscuously without fear of penalty. It was to be expected they would deny the rabid, ill-judged attack on Mr. Woods and the police force itself which Mr. Ellison fathered. Nevertheless, the fact remains that he is counsel to these organizations, receiving fees aggregating $10,000 a year, according to Mr. Woods, and acting as lobbyist for them whenever legislation is proposed which is deemed "unfriendly." So what he said cannot be passed over on their mere denial of its official character.

If there is any such widespread discontent within the Police Department as Mr. Ellison indicated, it is a sign of incompetency or insubordination. There can be no halfway ground. Mr. Ellison says that the men should be treated as "human beings"; should be encouraged and backed in efforts to capture crooks; should have complete freedom to employ stoolpigeons, use their clubs and pistols, enter suspected places and make arrests without fear of civil suit against them for mistakes. Mr. Woods probably has gone further in treating the police as "human beings" than any other Commissioner in recent years, except General Bingham and Mr. McKay. He certainly has backed them and applauded them in their efforts to capture crooks and rid the city of gangmen. He has proclaimed frequently (and Mayor Mitchel has reiterated it) the doctrine that the police might use their clubs and pistols on criminals who resisted arrest.

The Commissioner even recently entered into controversy with a magistrate who censured a patrolman for clubbing a prisoner who fought him. If the police do not know this and believe it, they are stupid and incompetent. If, knowing it, they choose to take the course indicated by Mr. Ellison of bringing Mr. Woods's administration to failure, they must be insubordinate.

Mr. Ellison's idea seems to be that the police should be a roving army, without limitation on their activities. Under such conditions the public would have more to fear from the police than from the crooks, whom the police ought to fight. Out of any such system of police irresponsibility as he proposes there must come brutality, inefficiency, grafting, oppression and license—lawbreaking in many forms.

From that state of affairs the police of this city have gradually grown away. They are, by and large, too fine and sensible a body of men not to know that what Mr. Ellison was talking was either nonsense or crazy politics. It is incredible that they should want what he said that they want. If they do, it is certain they won't get it and don't need it for a proper and efficient enforcement of the laws.

KING ALBERT'S BOOK.

[Mr. Hall Caine has edited a volume composed of tributes to the Belgian King and his people. Contributions came from statesmen and men of letters the world around and included the two poems below.]

The Outlaws.

By RUDYARD KIPLING.

Through learned and laborious years
They set themselves to find
Fresh terrors and undreamed-of fears
To help upon mankind. . . . .

When all was readied to their hand
They loosed their hidden sword
And utterly laid waste a land
Their oath was pledged to guard.

Coldly they went about to raise
To life and make more dread
Abominations of old days,
That men believed were dead.

They paid the price to reach their goal
Across a world in flame,
But their own hate slew their own soul
Before that victory came.

Sonnet on the Belgian Expatriation,

By THOMAS HARDY.

I dreamt that people from the Land of Chimes
Arrived one autumn morning with their bells,
To hoist them on the towers and citadels
Of my own country, that the musical rhymes
Rung by them into space at measured times
Amid the market's daily stir and stress,
And the nights' empty starlit silentness,
Might solace souls of this and kindred climes.

Then I awoke: and lo, before me stood
The visioned ones, but pale and full of fear;
From Bruges they came, and Antwerp, and Ostend.
No carillons in their train. Vicissitude
Had left these tinkling to the invaders' ear,
And ravaged street, and smouldering gable-end.

BELGIAN MIGRATION TO AMERICA

A Plea from a Distinguished English Visitor for Emergency Legislation.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The sympathy shown in the United States for the disinherited Belgians is one of the finest incidents which have marked the progress of the European war. Money has been forthcoming in abundance. The food sent to Brussels has kept thousands from starvation. In every city, town and village which I have visited in the United States there are skilful fingers at work knitting or sewing to provide clothing for the destitute families of the disinherited people. This outburst of humanitarian sympathy deserves the fullest recognition. But it must be evident to a people so thoughtful, farseeing and practical as the people of America that at present Belgian relief is only postponing from day to day the pressure of starvation, and many must already have asked the question, What next? The question is one which is being asked in so many quarters that some considerations bearing on it may be found useful.

1. Among the refugees in London there are many who can think of no future except a return to Belgium and an attempt to rebuild their homes, which have been ruthlessly destroyed. But this is not the mind of the younger men. They are inclined to say, "We have seen everything we cared for and worked for destroyed. We must begin life again somewhere, and we mean to begin where the fruits of our work will not be taken from us. One experience such as we have had is enough for a lifetime. Our eyes are turning now to the new world as the land of hope for us. Is there any way of getting a start there?"

2. The Belgian people are, as a whole, as thrifty, clean, industrious and willing workers as any that are found in Europe. But they are essentially a community folk. They have not the kind of independence which maks the Scot an ideal emigrant, or the unfailing humor which makes the Irishman at home everywhere. If they come over here as individual waifs and strays they will probably succumb to the strangeness of their new surroundings—drift into the foreign quarters of large cities, and add a fresh element to an overstocked market for casual labor. If they could come over as communities—agriculturists, shopkeepers, clerks, teachers, headworkers and handworkers together in something like their old relationships—they would find it much easier to "make good," and they would probably add a much more positive and useful element to the life of the United States.

3. Such a migration of communities to America would not seriously interfere with the repopulation of Belgium when that becomes possible. Belgium was a densely populated country, about equal to Massachusetts and one-third more. A dense population can live on a narrow strip of ground when it grows there, but once disturbed, it is very difficult to get it back. It will be many years before Belgium is in a condition to support the same number of people as it maintained before the war. While we are waiting for that there is almost time to create a new Belgium on this side of the Atlantic. If, on the other hand, the Kaiser succeeds in keeping any part of Belgium for his German subjects, the Belgians will not want to return to bear a foreign yoke, nor will they be wanted by the Germans except to pay heavy war taxes.

4. There are in the Southern States, in the West and in Canada considerable tracts of land which might be used for Belgian settlements. There are also many patriotic and philanthropic Americans ready to advance capital with the object of securing a pied a terre for the Belgians, and at the same time adding a valuable element to the population of the United States. They know that if the Belgians come here they will bring with them their own skill, industry and proficiency in such arts as flower culture, lace making, glass manufacture and the thrifty habits of Continental civilization.

5. But at the present there is one obstacle to this happy consummation—the immigration laws. These laws were not passed for such an emergency as this. They did not contemplate the possibility of a community migration, and at present they effectually close the door of hope to those who would like to help the Belgians to begin again. At the present moment a new immigration law is under discussion. It would be easily possible to add such a clause or clauses to the law as would allow a regulated and properly financed immigration of Belgian communities to the States if there were any popular mandate for such an alteration. Here the people are the source of law, and it remains for them to give expression to their humanitarian sympathies in such a way as to make these sympathies really effective in helping a distressed people. The situation is one without precedent in history. There is no parallel available showing what should be done with a population of a million and a half suddenly divorced from its home, its work, and its means of livelihood. Is it not an occasion worthy of American initiative as well as American philanthropy?

DUGALD MACFADYEN,
Minister South Grove Congregational Church, London.
Hotel Seville, New York, N. Y.

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

WAR FOR WOMEN

If Militarism Is to Return Let Girls Drill as Well as Boys.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The suggestion of Mayor Mitchel, as read by me in several of the newspapers, to have military training introduced in the public schools seems to apply to the boys alone. As an ardent advocate of equal suffrage, equal pay for equal work and equal opportunities for women, I should like to protest against such unjust discrimination.

Since, evidently, the business of war is to be revived and re-established, this training for future occupations should not be given to the boys to the exclusion of the girls. The lack of such training at the impressionable age will be a serious handicap to them in their future work—a risk that must not be overlooked by the masculine advocates of this farreaching measure.

ROSALIE G. JONES.
Syosset, N. Y., Jan. 1, 1915.

ONE CAUSE OF POVERTY

How Buying on the Instalment Plan Hits the Working Girl.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In answer to and in thorough appreciation of Mrs. Maud Nathan's letter in to-day's paper: "What is the ever increasing cause of poverty against which we struggle?"

Our credit and instalment plans! The worst and most deadly kind of slavery. Leave men out. A girl working for $6 a week is a joke "on the job" if she doesn't dress well. How does she do it? Instalments on poor goods which are worn out before paid in full. Then what?

She can't go to church in clothes she can afford. One would think church one place one could go without bluff!

Charity cannot carry the burden. If we can give let us not expect a return. Let it be loaned to be repaid when convenient. Let our gifts not pauperize by costing the self-respect of the recipient.

B.
Mount Vernon, N. Y., Dec. 29, 1914.

As to a Defender of Militarism.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: So Henry Weismann, of the German-American Alliance, does not agree with the pastor of the Plymouth Church, of Brooklyn. He doesn't think it's wrong that an entire nation of industrious, frugal individuals shall be chained to the task of making both ends meet—husband, wife, sons and daughters each contributing his or her share—just to maintain an extravagant royalty and aristocracy, as well as a bellicose military caste; he doesn't deem it wrong when people are sent to prison for giving expression to their views of their country's ruler, be such views ever so just, etc., etc.

But who agrees with Mr. Weismann? Do those who jointly form the German-American Alliance with him? If they do so now they surely would have disavowed him twenty years ago, when, in company with Herr Johann Most, he was advocating the expropriation of certain people whom he regarded as arch thieves, the drones of society.

Brooklyn, Dec. 29, 1914. S. C.

Straining at a Gnat and Swallowing a Camel.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Compare the loss caused to a few hundred merchants whose shipments have been detained, justly so in many cases, since contraband articles were concealed in non-contraband goods, compare this loss caused by the British government with that caused to us by Germany in invading Belgium and inflicting such destruction of industries and homes that millions are shelterless and are on the point of starvation and are being kept alive principally at our expense.

If we protest against the loss to our shippers caused by delays growing out of Great Britain's action, ought not we to protest against the far greater loss which has come to us through our efforts, by shiploads of provisions, to relieve in some measure the distress and misery which Germany has inflicted upon a nation whose only offence was that it wanted to remain at peace with all its neighbors?

P. H. CLARK.
Schenectady, N. Y., Dec. 31, 1914.

PRESIDENTIAL TIMBER

Two Republican Governors as Viewed by an Admirer of Both.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I recall an editorial in which, some time ago, you lamented that as yet no highly available candidate has appeared above the political horizon. I cannot agree with you; nor do dozens of good Republicans with whom I have talked. The opinion that is current among the unvoiced fractions of the Republican party is that the recent elections have, as it were, thrown into the political focus two men.

These two men, I hardly need say, are the newly elected Governors of New York and Pennsylvania. Charles S. Whitman and Martin G. Brumbaugh carried their respective states by astonishing majorities. Both are men of the highest type. Both are regulars; yet both are unusually progressive; either can probably satisfy that first requisite in a Republican candidate in 1916, ability to unite the two wings of the party.

The two men represent, however, two distinct types in American politics. Whitman, the better known, has a national reputation that rests mainly upon an astounding success in prosecuting criminals in the municipal field. The people believe in him because they are convinced he is both honest and extremely able. Brumbaugh, though not so widely known, has yet a reputation that extends beyond the limits of his own state. It rests on educational and executive work, as a mere list of his activities will show. He has been in succession county superintendent, college president, professor in the University of Pennsylvania, Commissioner of Education to Porto Rico and superintendent of the Philadelphia schools. In brief, one represents a type that is passing, the muck-raking, or destructive; the other, the educational, or constructive.

In considering the sort of candidate it must have in 1916 the party must ponder the situation carefully. It must ponder especially two things. The first is the temper of the country. The people, particularly the business world, is tired of criticism and impatient of persecutions. It is looking hopefully toward an era of development and prosperity wherein enlightenment and efficiency shall play leading roles. Again, the Republican party will probably have to oppose in the national forum a man of the educating and constructive type. In Superintendent Brumbaugh the party has a man who will not suffer in comparison, in educational and executive training, with even the present leader of the Democratic party.

Finally, the party is awaking to the fact that it has in Governor Brumbaugh, more than in any other man, a big, vital, genial, virile personality. Brumbaugh is the kind of man, all his friends know, who wins elections through an extraordinary personal popularity. Only let the Republican voters throughout the country know what those in Pennsylvania knew, and the triumph of last November will be repeated in the coming national campaign.

FREDERICK B. LINDSEY.
Waldwick, N. J., Dec. 30, 1914.

An Anti-Suffrage Hand Grenade.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Here's ammunition for the anti-suffragists, notably Annie Riley Hale and Marjorie Dorman, who say every "suf" is an incipient Mormon.

Women have voted in Arizona since 1912, therefore just before Christmas it rained for seven days in that state; the Santa Cruz (not Claus) River spread like the latter day saints and mussed up the landscape expensively.

Do we want to see the Hudson behaving like that?

ANTI-SUFFRAGETTE LOGIC.
Tarrytown, N. Y., Dec. 30, 1914.

THE POLISH CAUSE

The Need of a Reunited Nation Erected as a Free State.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Please accept the wishes for a Happy New Year from the undersigned, who has been for many years an appreciative reader of your paper. May it in the coming year be blessed with a huge increase in circulation in remuneration for its quality; may it in the coming year not only continue to write as fairly about Poland as it has written the past year, but also elucidate more clearly to the reading world the want not only of Alsace and Lorraine to be reunited with their national body, but also of the territories torn from the Republic of Poland, and demonstrate to the world the need to mankind of a reunited Poland, re-erected as a self-active state, able to resume the disinterested, noble work she had been doing for humanity until she was interrupted toward the close of the eighteenth century by the three German bandits—the King of Prussia, the Empress of Russia and the Empress of Austria!

In this connection I should observe that a clearer view of the Polish cause, and one easily attained, may be acquired by a perusal of the material supplied by "Free Poland," which is published in Chicago. I am calling your attention to "Free Poland" because—though I do not doubt that you receive it—I fear that, perceiving by its exterior that "Free Poland" is a publication providing "the truth about Poland and her people," you have immediately concluded that in quality of articles it is equivalent to "The Fatherland" (which, notwithstanding the definite article in its name, stands not for the United States, but for the birthplace of "kultur"), and that you therefore never turn the title page and never scan the contents.

Had you, however, glanced beyond the title page you should have beheld a glaring difference between "Free Poland" and Viereck's "The Germans' Fatherland," the difference between culture, which to the Poles signifies the same that it does to the English, the French and the Italians, and "kultur," which is the nth degree of vandalism and barbarity.

WACLAW PERKOWSKI.
No. 265 West 125th st., New York, Jan. 1, 1915.

Miss Rodman's Employer Was the City.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your correspondent in yesterday's issue is wrong in placing Miss Rodman as an employe of the Board of Education. She is an employe of the citizens of the city, as are the members of the board. As such she has the same right to criticise the action of the board in the matter under consideration as have other citizens. Had Dr. Maxwell, who I infer is her senior in years, in a kindly manner called her attention to the form of the criticism as casting a seeming reflection upon the members of the board as gentlemen Miss Rodman, as a lady, would no doubt have disclaimed her intention to do so and cheerfully apologized. The course which was taken by the board was not creditable to them, either as officials or as citizens.

C. T. MORSE.
Brooklyn, Jan. 1, 1915.

What the Minimum Wage Means.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is noted that the honored president of the Consumers' League advocates the formation of a permanent commission to deal with the wage question. Moreover, it is stated that such a commission "is the only logical method to determine wages." Many will doubtless dissent from such a conclusion, on the basis that the matter of wage and service is one which no commission can possibly settle. Wages are properly based on efficiency and are modified by the law of supply and demand. Moreover, a right to establish a minimum wage implies a right to establish a maximum wage and an intermediate wage. In fact, if the right be granted for a commission to establish any wage, it becomes difficult to see why such a commission should not regulate all wages.

WILLIAM WEST.
New York, Dec. 29, 1914.

THE CONTRABAND DISPUTE

A Reader Regrets the Manner of Our Protest as First Made Public.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is greatly to be regretted that the protest which President Wilson and Secretary Bryan have recently made to the British government has been so infelicitously expressed and has been presented in a manner so tactless that something of a temporary estrangement has been unnecessarily caused between two nations who should be on the best of terms.

It is somewhat humiliating for us Americans, when criticised by Europeans for the often brusque and mannerless nature of our diplomatic communications, to have our conduct defended by our European friends on the ground that, because of our comparatively recent entry into world politics and because of our ignorance of social usages, it would be unreasonable to expect the same standard of courtesy and good breeding from Washington that is demanded from London, from Vienna or from Rome. We should not be forced continually to plead minority, from the diplomatic standpoint, in extenuation of our offences or to explain that our dispatches are perfectly correct when judged by the social standard prevailing in some provincial town in New Jersey or in Nebraska.

Our right to demand that our ships and our cargoes should not be subjected to unreasonable and unnecessary detention is unquestioned, but such rare cases of unnecessary detention on the part of the British as must almost inevitably arise in times like these could have been brought to the notice of the proper authorities in a manner more in accordance with the proprieties of diplomatic intercourse.

There is abundant proof, moreover, that in the main the British have displayed a degree of consideration for neutral rights, including our own, of course, unparalleled in history. This consideration has been requited, in numerous instances, by practices on the part of shippers and German agents which can only be considered correct if judged by the prevailing German code of honor. False invoices have been made out, copper has been painted to look like iron, rubber has been described as gum, and numerous other frauds have been committed.

There is a widespread but absolutely erroneous notion prevailing in this country that goods, even though they may be contraband of war, if consigned to a neutral country are neutral goods and are exempt from seizure. That is, that Great Britain would not be justified in seizing gasolene, horses or copper, for instance, if consigned to Copenhagen, Rotterdam or Genoa or to any other neutral port, because the ostensible destination of these goods happened to be neutral. But in determining whether goods are liable to seizure or not international law takes the ultimate and not the ostensible destination of the cargo into consideration.

If, for example, a cargo of gasolene were consigned to Copenhagen with the intention of unloading the gasolene at Copenhagen and forwarding it to Germany, the law would regard the ultimate destination of the gasolene as Germany and not Denmark, and would justify Great Britain in seizing the cargo, provided that it could be proved that the ultimate destination of the cargo was Germany and not Denmark.

RICHARD A. ZEREGA.
New York, Dec. 31, 1914.

The Tribune wishes to remind its readers that anonymous letters cannot be printed in this column. For our records and as an assurance of the writer's good faith, name and address must be signed in every case. These will not be published if the writer so requests.